

From: C Eguia
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/6/02 9:18pm
Subject: Continued Microsoft violations?

It appears that Microsoft is continuing to ignore the spirit of the ruling by the judicial branch.

Isn't the Microsoft XP operating system just another rush to get business & private customers more dependant on MS with their Passport & .Net technology that is already making private information available to local crackers and those abroad due to the numerous bugs in the MS software*. Users would also be required to checkin with MS systematically when hardware devices are added or changed on a computer? (It is expected that it would also be needed whenever a person had to reformat their harddrive.) This continual interaction with the monopoly would also provide the company with hardware (and software) data without the user's knowledge and this information could be made available to advertisers for a price as well.

It appears that the DOJ is providing Microsoft with the capability to extend it monopoly by not adding their recent inroads into the audio, video & photography player software market by including their own software in their operating system and making them the default players. Also, by not providing the code to competitors, Microsoft makes it more difficult for them to provide more compatible and secure software. Even with this handicap, competing software is typically better and more bug-proof than Microsoft's.

Is Microsoft still being allowed to change the various standards on the internet with Internet Explorer (XML) functions so they can further extend their monopoly? Is MS being allowed to make their internet portal the default in Internet Explorer thus allowing them to make more money on advertising?

I have read that the proposed ruling, as a *punishment*, allows Microsoft to provide their software (and their OLD hardware) to the schools and facilitates them to extend their monopoly in the educational market. Is this true? If so, doesn't that make our government a party to the monopolistic practices that MS continues to practice? Would requiring them to provide the money for software (and new hardware without an operating system) to the schools be a better solution and punishment?

The next thing to review is the contracts Microsoft has with PC vendors. I've tried to buy a computer with various companies without a MS operating system (OS) and they refuse to reduce the cost of the software from the price of the PC or to even send the PC without an OS. It has been rumored that MS would refund the money if the OS software was

returned with the shrinkwrap intact but that refunds seldom occurred.

Thank you, Candelario Eguia
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Reference: "*Microsoft's direct connection to the customer*

Once, the software group's MSN was a news and information website. Now
it is much more than that, writes Fiona Harvey

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Sometimes it seems that even when Microsoft loses, it wins." at

<http://news.ft.com/ft/gx.cgi/ftc?pagename=View&c=Article&cid=FT39XAL3VVC>

* "*MS sounds Passport IE patch alarm*"

<http://netscape.zdnet.com/zdnn/stories/news/0,4586,2836270,00.html>